

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating ~~of~~ raising funds for an entity, comprising:

~~offering~~ electronically transferring funds, by an electronic automated banking system, by an entity, to holders of a first set of debt obligations issued by the entity, wherein the funds are electronically transferred from an account of the entity to accounts of the holders of the first set of debt obligations;

~~offering~~ electronically transferring funds, by the electronic automated banking system, to holders of a second set of debt obligations, wherein the second set of debt obligations are issued by at least one of the entity and a second entity created for the purpose of ~~offering~~ issuing the second set of debt obligations, and wherein the funds are electronically transferred from an account of the at least one of the entity and a second entity to accounts of the holders of the second set of debt obligations; and

purchasing assets with proceeds from the ~~offering~~ issuance of the second set of debt obligations, wherein holders of the first set of debt obligations have a security interest in the assets such that, in the event the entity defaults, the assets are liquidated to redeem the first set of debt obligations from the holders thereof.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second set of debt obligations entitles the holders thereof to:

receive interest earnings on the assets, so long as the assets have not been liquidated to redeem the first set of debt obligations; and

receive an additional payment from one of the entity and the second entity.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the security interest of the holders of the first set of debt obligations is capped at the par value of the first set of debt obligations plus accrued interest.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein:  
the first set of debt obligations is tax-exempt; and  
the second set of debt obligations is taxable.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the assets have a credit rating greater than the credit rating of general obligation bonds issued by the entity.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the first set of debt obligations includes variable rate demand obligations.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the variable rate demand obligations include variable rate demand bonds.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the second set of debt obligations includes floating rate notes.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the assets include discount notes from a government sponsored enterprise.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the assets have a credit rating greater than the credit rating of general obligation bonds issued by the entity.

11. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the first set of debt obligations include fixed rate demand obligations.

12. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the entity is a municipality.

13. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the maturity date of the second set of debt obligations is after the maturity date of the first set of debt obligations.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sizes of the offerings of the first and second debt obligations are the same.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating of raising funds for an entity, comprising:

offering electronically transferring funds, by an electronic automated banking system, by the entity, to holders of tax-exempt variable rate demand obligations issued

by the entity, wherein the funds are electronically transferred from an account of the entity to accounts of holders of the tax-exempt variable rate demand obligations;

~~offering~~electronically transferring funds, by the electronic automated banking system, by the entity, to holders of taxable floating rate notes issued by the entity,  
wherein the funds are electronically transferred from an account of the entity to accounts of the holders of the taxable floating rate notes;

purchasing assets with proceeds from the ~~offering~~ issuance of the taxable floating rate notes, wherein holders of the variable rate demand obligations have a security interest in the assets such that, in the event the entity defaults, the assets are liquidated to redeem the variable rate demand obligations from the holders thereof.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the taxable floating rate notes entitle the holders thereof to:

receive interest earnings on the assets, so long as the assets have not been liquidated to redeem the variable rate demand obligations; and  
receive an additional payment from the entity.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the security interest of the holders of the variable rate demand obligations is capped at the par value of the variable rate demand obligations plus accrued interest.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the assets have a credit rating of one of AA and AAA.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the assets include discount notes from a government sponsored enterprise.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the entity is a municipality.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the maturity date of the second set of debt obligations is after the maturity date of the first set of debt obligations.

22-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating ~~of~~ raising funds for an entity, comprising:

~~offering~~ electronically transferring funds, by an electronic automated banking system, by an entity, to holders of a first set of debt obligations issued by the entity, wherein the funds are electronically transferred from an account of the entity to accounts of the holders of the first set of debt obligations;

~~offering~~ electronically transferring funds, by the electronic automated banking system, to holders of a second set of debt obligations, wherein the second set of debt obligations are issued by at least one of the entity and a second entity created for the purpose of offering issuing the second set of debt obligations, and wherein the funds are electronically transferred from an account of the at least one of the entity and a second entity to accounts of the holders of the second set of debt obligations; and

purchasing assets with proceeds from the ~~offering~~ issuance of the second set of debt obligations, wherein holders of the first set of debt obligations have a security interest in the assets such that, in the event the entity defaults, proceeds from the assets are paid as due to the holders of the first set of debt obligations.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the second set of debt obligations entitles the holders thereof to:

receive interest earnings on the assets, so long as the assets have not been liquidated to redeem the first set of debt obligations; and

receive an additional payment from one of the entity and the second entity.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein:

the first set of debt obligations is tax-exempt; and

the second set of debt obligations is taxable.